

4.2.2 EXISTING AND PLANNED LAND USE IN THE SURROUNDING REGION

Approximately 75 percent of the land adjacent to INEEL is owned by the Federal government and administered by the Bureau of Land Management. Land uses on this federally-held land consist of wildlife management, mineral and energy production, grazing, and recreation. Approximately 1 percent of the adjacent land is owned by the State of Idaho. This land is also used for wildlife management, grazing, and recreation. The remaining 24 percent of the land adjacent to INEEL is privately owned and is primarily used for grazing and crop production.

Small communities and towns near INEEL boundaries include Mud Lake and Terreton to the east; Arco, Butte City, and Howe to the west; and Atomic City to the south. The larger communities of Idaho Falls, Rexburg, Rigby, Blackfoot, and Pocatello, along with the Fort Hall Indian Reservation, are located to the east and southeast of INEEL. Recreation and tourist attractions in the surrounding region include Craters of the Moon National Monument and Wilderness Area, Hell's Half Acre Wilderness Study Area, Black Canyon Wilderness Study Area, Camas National Wildlife Refuge, Market Lake Wildlife Management Area, North Lake State Wildlife Management Area, Targhee and Challis National Forests, the Snake River, as shown in Figure 4-2. Additional recreation and tourist attractions in the surrounding region include Yellowstone National Park, Grand Teton National Park, the Jackson Hole recreation complex, Sawtooth National Recreation Area, Sawtooth Wilderness Area, and Sawtooth National Forest.

Lands surrounding INEEL are subject to Federal and State planning laws and regulations governed by Federal rules and regulations requiring public involvement in their implementation. Land use planning in the State of Idaho is derived from the Local Planning Act of 1975. Currently, the State of Idaho does not have a land-use planning agency. Therefore, the Idaho legislature requires that each county adopt its own land use planning and zoning guidelines. All county plans and policies encourage devel-

opment adjacent to previously developed areas in order to minimize the need to expand infrastructure and to avoid urban sprawl. Because INEEL is remotely located, INEEL and adjacent areas are not likely to experience residential and commercial development, and no new development is planned near INEEL. However, recreational and agricultural uses are expected to increase in the surrounding area in response to greater demand for recreational areas and the conversion of range land to crop land.

4.3 Socioeconomics

This section presents an overview of current socioeconomic conditions within a seven-county region of influence comprised of Bannock, Bingham, Bonneville, Butte, Clark, Jefferson, and Madison counties, and the Fort Hall Indian Reservation and Trust Lands (home of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes). Figure 4-2 presents a map of the area showing towns and major routes in the region of influence. This section discusses population, housing, employment, income, and community services. The contents of this section are tiered from the SNF & INEL EIS, Volume 2, Part A, Section 4.13 (DOE 1995).

4.3.1 POPULATION AND HOUSING

4.3.1.1 Population

From 1960 to 1990, population growth in the region of influence paralleled statewide growth. During this period, the region of influence's population increased an average rate of approximately 1.3 percent annually, while the annual growth rate for the State was 1.4 percent (BEA 1997). From 1990 to 1995, State population growth accelerated to over 3 percent per year, and region of influence growth remained under 2 percent (DOC 1997a). Population growth for both the region of influence and the State are projected to slow after the year 2000. Table 4-1 presents population estimates for the region of influence through 1995 and projections for 2000 through 2025. Based on population trends, the region of influence population will reach almost



Table 4-1. Population of the INEEL region of influence and Idaho: selected years 1980-2025.^a

County	1980	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025
Bannock	65,421	66,026	72,043	78,252	81,303	84,474	90,894	96,802	102,710
Bingham	36,489	37,583	40,950	44,479	46,214	48,016	51,666	55,024	58,382
Bonneville	65,980	72,207	79,230	86,059	89,415	92,902	99,963	106,460	112,958
Butte	3,342	2,918	3,097	3,364	3,495	3,631	3,907	4,161	4,415
Clark	798	762	841	913	948	985	1,060	1,129	1,198
Jefferson	15,304	16,543	18,429	20,017	20,798	21,609	23,251	24,763	26,274
Madison	19,480	23,674	23,651	25,690	26,692	27,733	29,841	31,780	33,720
Region of influence	206,814	219,713	238,241	258,774	268,865	279,350	300,582	320,119	339,657
Idaho	944,127	1,006,749	1,164,887	1,216,000	1,277,000	1,335,000	1,395,000	1,514,000	1,725,000

a. Source: DOC (1997a,b); BEA (1997).

269,000 persons by 2005 and 339,700 by 2025 (BEA 1997). DOE recognizes that a degree of uncertainty exists in these population projections because of possible variability over time in birth rates, death rates, emigration/immigration rates, and other factors in the region of influence.

Bannock and Bonneville counties have the largest populations in the region of influence, and together they accounted for almost 64 percent of the total region of influence population in 1996. Butte and Clark are the most sparsely populated counties and together contain only 1.6 percent of the total region of influence population. The largest cities in the region of influence are Pocatello (in Bannock County) and Idaho Falls (in Bonneville County), with 1996 populations of approximately 51,000 and 48,000, respectively (DOC 1997b). During 1996, INEEL employees and their families accounted for 20 percent of Bonneville County's population and composed almost 30 percent of Idaho Falls' population. INEEL employees and their families represent only 2 percent of the population of Bannock and Madison counties (DOE 1997).

4.3.1.2 Housing

There were 78,000 housing units in the region of influence during 1990, the last year for which data are available (DOC 1992). Approximately 70 percent of the units were single-family units, 17 percent were multi-family units, and 13 percent were mobile homes. Approximately 7.7 percent of the housing units were vacant, although some vacant units were used for sea-

sonal, recreational, or other occasional purposes. Rental vacancy rates ranged from 2.8 percent in Madison County to 16.2 percent in Butte County, while owner-occupied vacancy rates ranged from 1.3 percent in Madison County to 4.6 percent in Butte County. The average rental vacancy rate in the state of Idaho was 7.3 percent, and the owner-occupied vacancy rate aver-



Table 4-2. Region of influence housing characteristics (1990).^a

County	Total housing units	Number of owner occupied units	Owner occupied vacancy rates	Median value	Number of rental units	Rental vacancy rates	Median contract monthly rent
Bannock	25,694	16,082	2.4%	\$53,300	7,330	10.3%	\$237
Bingham	12,664	8,830	2.0%	\$50,700	2,683	9.2%	\$207
Bonneville	26,049	17,371	1.9%	\$63,700	6,918	6.2%	\$293
Butte	1,265	744	4.6%	\$41,400	253	16.2%	\$158
Clark	502	174	1.7%	\$37,300	103	9.6%	\$189
Jefferson	5,353	3,920	2.0%	\$54,300	951	4.1%	\$221
Madison	6,133	3,476	1.3%	\$68,700	2,325	2.8%	\$239
Region of influence	77,660	50,597	NA ^b	NA	20,563	NA	NA

a. Source: DOC (1992); does not include housing used for seasonal, recreational, or other uses.

b. NA = Not applicable.

aged 2.0 percent. About 29 percent of the occupied housing units in the region of influence were rental units, and 71 percent were homeowner units. The majority of housing units (67 percent) in the region of influence were located in Bonneville and Bannock counties, which include the cities of Idaho Falls and Pocatello (DOC 1992).

In 1990, the median value of owner-occupied housing units ranged from \$37,300 in Clark County to \$68,700 in Madison County, and median monthly contract rents ranged from \$158 in Butte County to \$293 in Bonneville County. The median value of owner-occupied housing units in Idaho was \$58,200, and the median contract rent was \$261 (DOC 1992). Table 4-2 shows housing characteristics for the region of influence.

4.3.2 EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME

The region of influence experienced stable growth during the 1990s. The labor force grew from 105,837 in 1990 to 130,204 in 1998, an average annual growth rate of almost 2.9 percent. Total region of influence employment grew from 100,074 in 1990 to 124,777 in 1998, an average annual growth rate of approximately 3.1 percent (BLS 1997, 1999). This growth rate was considerably higher than during the 1980s when region of influence employment grew at approximately 1.2 percent annually. Between 1990 and 1998, the labor force in the state of

Idaho grew at an annual rate of 4.1 percent, and employment grew 4.2 percent annually. Historical trends in labor force, employment, and



Table 4-3. Historical trends in region of influence labor force.

County	1980	1985	1990	1995	1998
Bannock	30,488	33,684	31,342	36,310	40,407
Bingham	15,582	16,892	18,383	20,507	21,643
Bonneville	26,966	35,103	38,632	43,422	45,738
Butte	1,862	1,579	1,447	1,542	1,665
Clark	325	538	549	623	662
Jefferson	4,865	7,131	8,078	9,158	9,774
Madison	9,103	7,802	7,406	9,695	10,315
Region of influence	89,191	102,729	105,837	121,257	130,204
Idaho	429,000	466,000	492,619	600,493	653,056

Source: BLS (1997, 1999).

Table 4-4. Historical trends in region of influence employment.

County	1980	1985	1990	1995	1998
Bannock	28,207	31,064	29,051	34,183	38,470
Bingham	14,419	15,534	17,320	19,363	20,586
Bonneville	25,432	33,267	37,127	41,563	44,110
Butte	1,780	1,491	1,381	1,479	1,598
Clark	295	511	533	596	638
Jefferson	4,480	6,600	7,633	8,685	9,348
Madison	8,683	7,366	7,029	9,373	10,027
Region of influence	83,296	95,833	100,074	115,242	124,777
Idaho	395,000	429,000	463,484	568,138	620,217

Source: BLS (1997, 1999).

Table 4-5. Historical trends in region of influence unemployment rates.

County	1980	1985	1990	1995	1998
Bannock	7.5%	7.8%	7.3%	5.9%	4.8%
Bingham	7.5%	8.0%	5.8%	5.6%	4.9%
Bonneville	5.7%	5.2%	3.9%	4.3%	3.6%
Butte	4.4%	5.6%	4.6%	4.1%	4.0%
Clark	9.2%	5.0%	2.9%	4.3%	3.8%
Jefferson	7.9%	7.4%	5.5%	5.2%	4.4%
Madison	4.6%	5.6%	5.1%	3.3%	2.8%
Region of influence	6.6%	6.7%	5.4%	5.0%	4.0%
Idaho	7.9%	7.9%	5.9%	5.4%	5.0%

Source: BLS (1997, 1999).

Affected Environment

unemployment are shown in Tables 4-3, 4-4, and 4-5, respectively.

The region of influence unemployment rate was 4.0 percent in 1998, the lowest level in over a decade and lower than the average rate of 5.0 percent in Idaho. Unemployment rates within the region of influence ranged from 2.8 percent in Madison County to 4.9 percent in Bingham County (BLS 1997, 1999). The INEEL region of influence is rural in character, with an economy that has historically been based on natural resources and agriculture. Consistent with most regions of the country, economic growth over the past several decades has been in nonagricultural sectors. Although farming and agricultural services remain important to the region of influence economy, these sectors provided less than 8 percent of jobs in the region of influence in 1995. Three sectors - service, government, and retail and wholesale trade - are the largest sources of region of influence employment. Together, these sectors generated approximately 70 percent of the jobs in the region of influence in 1995. Manufacturing and construction are also important sectors and together accounted for about 13 percent of the region of influence employment in 1995 (BEA 1997). Sector employment in the state of Idaho is similar. Overall in the state, three sectors - service, government, and retail and wholesale trade - are the largest employers, providing 62 percent of employment. Manufacturing and construction together account for 19 percent of employment. Figure 4-3 presents employment levels for the major sectors for the region of influence.

INEEL exerts a major influence on the regional economy. During 1998, INEEL provided an average of 8,100

jobs, almost 7 percent of the total jobs in the region of influence (McCammon 1999). INEEL is the largest employer in Southeast Idaho and the second largest employer in Idaho (second to the State government) (DOE 1997). The current workforce population, however, is much lower than the approximately 12,500 employees that worked at INEEL during 1991, the peak year of recent history (McCammon 1999). Much of the employment loss was due to consolidation of contracts and reduction in defense-related activities. Employment projections indicate a stabilization of the job force at about 8,000 in Fiscal Year 2000 (McCammon 1999).

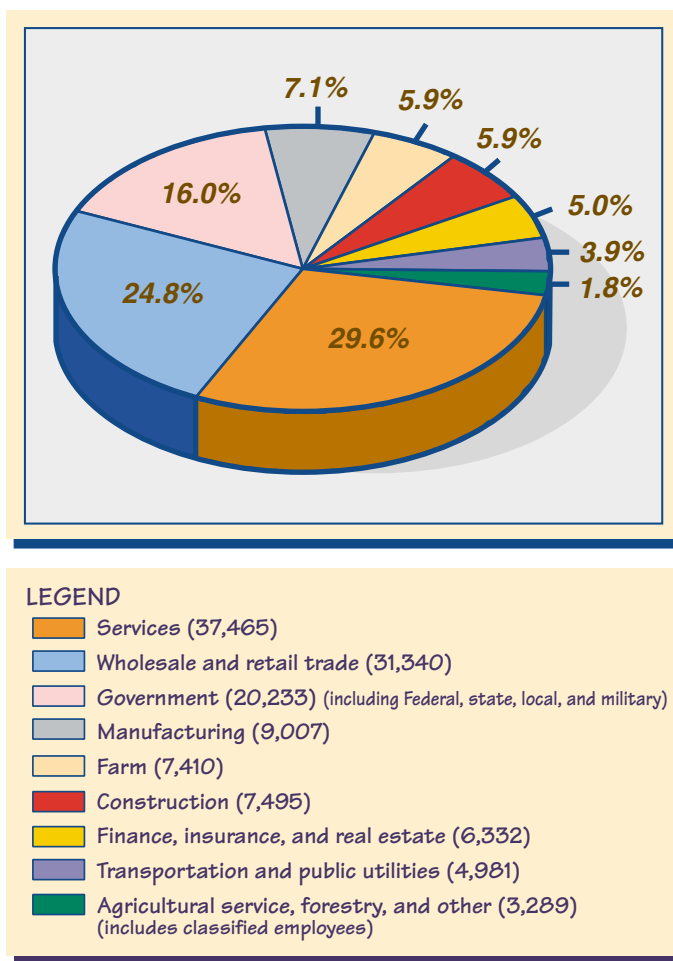


FIGURE 4-3.
1995 employment by sector.

Other major employers in the region of influence include Idaho State University, American Microsystems, Inc., and local school districts.

Per capita income for the region of influence was \$16,550 in 1995, a 17 percent increase over the 1990 level of \$14,136. Income levels within the region of influence ranged from \$11,758 for Madison County to \$22,444 in Clark County. The per capita income for Idaho was \$18,895 in 1995 (BEA 1997).

The median household income in the region of influence ranged from \$23,000 in Madison County to \$30,462 in Bonneville County. The median household income in Idaho was \$25,257, and the national median household income was \$30,056.

4.3.3 COMMUNITY SERVICES

Public schools, law enforcement, fire protection, and medical services are important community services in the region of influence.

Seventeen public school districts and five private schools provide educational services for the approximately 57,000 school-aged children in the region of influence. Higher education in the region of influence is provided by the Idaho State University/University of Idaho Center for Higher Education, Ricks College, and the Eastern Idaho Technical College.

Law enforcement is provided by 15 county and municipal police departments that employed 373 sworn officers and 149 civilians in 1995. Idaho Falls and Pocatello supported the largest departments, each employing 82 police officers. Clark County and the Firth police department had the smallest departments, with two officers each (DOJ 1996).

The region of influence is served by 18 municipal fire districts with about 500 firefighters, of whom approximately 300 are volunteers (DOE 1995). In addition, the INEEL fire department provides round-the-clock coverage for the site. The staff includes 50 firefighters, with no less than 16 firefighters on each shift. Bingham, Bonneville, Butte, Clark, and Jefferson counties, which surround INEEL, have developed emergency plans to be implemented in the event of a radiological or hazardous

materials emergency. Each emergency plan identifies facilities, including those of the INEEL, that have extremely hazardous substances and defines routes for transportation of these substances. The emergency plans also include procedures for notification and response, listings of emergency equipment and facilities, evacuation routes, and training programs.

The region of influence contains seven hospitals with a capacity of 1,012 beds that average approximately 48 percent occupancy (AHA 1995). Over 65 per-

